

REMARKS

Independent method claim 10, system claim 5 and software product claim 9 have been amended. Dependent method claim 3 has also been amended. Accordingly, claims 2-10 remain pending in the application. Claim 4 has been amended to cure a typographical error. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Applicant's counsel wishes to thank Examiner Lieu for the courtesies extended during the personal interview on June 10, 2008. The following records the substance of the interview.

As discussed during the interview, Applicant has amended method claim 10 to make clear that the receipt of a double unlock door command signal is distinct from detecting the actual opening of the vehicle door apart from merely unlocking the vehicle door. In that regard, claim 10 now recites a method of facilitating entry into or out of a motor vehicle comprising the acts of receiving a double unlock door command signal to unlock a vehicle door and to arm a complete window lowering operation for the window of the vehicle door, and detecting an actual opening of the vehicle door apart from the unlocking of the vehicle door. The method automatically triggers the complete window lowering operation and lowers the window only upon the receipt of the double unlock door command and the subsequent detection of the opening of the vehicle door. As a

result, the complete window lowering operation does not occur when the vehicle door is closed.

As is made clear in Applicant's specification, it is essential to the invention, that, in addition to providing a double unlock command, the vehicle door must actually be opened. Only then will the window of the corresponding door be lowered completely in order to facilitate entrance (see paragraph [0008]).

In the Office Action, independent claim 10 was rejected as being obvious over Boehm (DE 4 203 512 C1). As discussed during the interview, Applicant respectfully submit claims 10 is patentable over Boehm.

Contrary to Applicant's amended claim 10, Boehm provides a completely different solution for the same object, i.e., facilitating entry into a vehicle in a narrow parking space. In Boehm, an external handle button is used to lower the window after unlocking the door but while the door is still closed (see PTO English-language translation, page 6, lines 11-14).¹

Applicant's invention, on the other hand, makes use of the receipt of the double unlock door command signal to not only unlock the vehicle door but to also "arm" the complete window lowering operation. Once armed, the complete

¹ The PTO English-language translation of Boehm refers to "the vehicle [having] been opened", which is properly translated as "the vehicle [having] been unlocked". This is clear from Boehm's

window lowering operation is automatically triggered only upon the subsequent detection of the opening of the vehicle door, i.e., the actual opening of the door as opposed to its being unlocked. Thus, in Applicant's invention, the window lowering operation does not occur when the vehicle door is closed. This, of course, is completely opposite that of Boehm, wherein the window is lowered while the vehicle door is closed.

In view of the above, and as discussed during the interview, Applicant respectfully submits claim 10 is patentable over Boehm. Claims 2-4 depend from claim 10 and are also submitted to be patentable.

Regarding software product independent claim 9, here too claim 9 has been amended consistent with method claim 10. Hence, for reasons given above, Applicant submits claim 9 is over patentable over Boehm.

Finally, regarding independent system claim 5, Applicant has amended claim 5 to include a door opening detection device providing door open and door closed signals. The control device receives the double unlock command signal to arm a complete window lowering operation, and receives the door open and door closed signals. The control device automatically triggers the complete window lowering operation and lowers the window of the vehicle door only upon receiving

Fig. 2, wherein the first block in each branch references "aufschliessen" which translates to "unlocked."

the double unlock command signal and a subsequent door open signal. Hence, claim 5 has now been amended similarly to claim 10 and is also submitted to be patentable over Boehm. Dependent claims 6-8 depend from claim 5 and are also submitted to be patentable.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits claims 2-10 are now in condition for allowance.

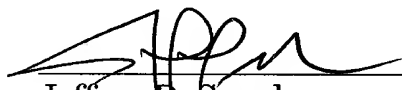
If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #080437.49628).

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Respectfully submitted,



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